

BBM-142US1

Appn. No.: 10/823,369  
Supplemental Amendment Dated May 25, 2006

**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A screw and rod fixation assembly for fixing a screw and a rod comprising:
  - a screw including a screw head; fixing means including an inner passageway for receiving said screw therethrough for automatically and compressively fixing said screw from movement relative to said fixing means, said fixing means including an inner surface wall having a gripping portion for compressively gripping portion for compressively gripping said screw head and a non-gripping portion allowing passage of the screw head to said gripping portion;
  - a substantially annular ring including an edge portion extending about a centered axis, said edge portion having a frustoconical surface tapering outwardly toward said edge portion for engaging said screw head while allowing a portion of said screw to pass therethrough;
  - rod seating means operatively engaged with said fixing means for seating a rod therein, said rod seating means including at least one flexible portion capable of being compressed against a rod seated within said rod seating means, wherein said at least one flexible portion has a tapered outer surface end; and
  - locking means for securing and engaging the rod and rod seating means, said locking means including deflecting means for deflecting said at least one flexible portion of said rod seating means against and around the rod as said locking means further engages said at least one flexible portion of said rod seating means.
2. (Original) The screw and rod fixation assembly according to claim 1, wherein said fixing means includes a substantially tubular body.
3. (Original) The screw and rod fixation assembly according to claim 2, wherein said substantially tubular body further includes spaced, substantially parallel arms extending from said substantially tubular body.
4. (Original) The screw and rod fixation assembly according to claim 1, wherein said gripping portion of said inner surface wall of said fixing means is expanded within an elastic range of said inner surface wall by said screw head.

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5. (Original) The screw and rod fixation assembly according to claim 1, wherein a portion of said inner surface wall of said fixing means is threaded.

6. (Original) The screw and rod fixation assembly according to claim 1, wherein said rod seating means includes a body portion from which at least one said flexible portion extends therefrom.

7. (Original) The screw and rod fixation assembly according to claim 1, wherein said locking means is defined as a set screw including a threaded outer surface for operatively engaging said threaded inner surface of said fixing means.

8. (Original) The screw and rod fixation assembly according to claim 7, wherein said set screw further includes a spherical, inner chamber for accommodating said at least one flexible portion when said at least one flexible portion is contoured around the rod situated therein.

9. (Previously presented) A screw fixation device comprising fixing means including an inner passageway for receiving said screw therethrough for selectively fixing a screw head, said fixing means including an inner surface wall having a gripping portion for compressively gripping said screw head and a non-gripping portion allowing passage of the screw head to said gripping portion, thereby fixedly gripping the screw head.

10. (Original) The screw fixation device according to claim 9, wherein said gripping portion of said inner surface wall is expanded by the screw head within an elastic range by the screw head.

11. (Original) The screw fixation device according to claim 9, wherein said fixing means includes a substantially tubular body.

12. (Original) The screw fixation device according to claim 11, wherein said substantially tubular body includes spaced, substantially parallel arms extending from said substantially tubular body.

13. (Original) The screw fixation device according to claim 11, wherein said substantially tubular body has a proximal end and a distal end, wherein said distal end is interiorly tapered for securing the screw head therein.

14. (Original) The screw fixation device according to claim 11, wherein said substantially tubular body has at least one aperture extending radially through said inner surface wall.

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